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OBSTINATE ONES MAKE A "HALF A LOAF" EXCUSE.

Their plea in extenuation is that half a loaf is better than no bread. It was better to get some kind of a resolution to enable the Lockwood committee to continue its investigation than no power at all. The Republicans who voted for the Donohue amendment were Fox, Hawkins, Lieberman, Reiss, Steinberg and Wallace of New York; Bly, Carroll, Caulfield, Clayton, Crows, Drues, Gempier, Giacomone, J. G. Moore, Moses and Warren of Brooklyn and McNulty and Petta of Queens.

The Democrats of New York have gone on record as being opposed to the traction amendments as proposed by Gov. Miller, and Democrats, Republicans and Socialists of Brooklyn and the Bronx have taken the same attitude. The floor of the Republicans on the Lockwood resolution has made the others skeptical of their action on the transit situation, and now is the time to get them into line. Gov. Miller is urging haste on the framing of the bills which are to incorporate his ideas on the taking away from New York City its authority over its transit facilities, but his advisers have counseled him to make haste slowly. While he is fretting over the delay, lawyers, legislators and engineers are trying to solve his problem, so that there may be no mistake when the bills are introduced.

FRETFUL GOVERNOR MUST BE PATIENT.

With all the demands, plenty of time will be afforded to New York City to array its opposition in fighting force and to acquaint the men of the cities up-made with the fact that the Governor's program is aimed at them as well as at Greater New York, and the hope of New York is that they will see the light and join in the fight among the Republican legislators which has been caused by the mind taken by Gov. Miller on the traction situation. The Governor's hands will have to slow down, for it is a question whether the proposed bills can be framed by the end of next week. They will be launched by the Public Service Committee of the Senate, of which Senator John L. Knight of the Erie County is Chairman. Wyoming County is about as far removed from New York City as can be imagined. Only Erie County lies between them and the banks of Lake Erie. But Senator Knight and the town of Aroha and the county of Wyoming are mere incidents in the Governor's scheme, as Gov. Miller says the fare in the bills are really being framed by the Bill Drafting Committee, and the Governor and his council are going over every section to make them support with present laws and the Constitution so far as is discernible to the legal eye, and to make them in line with the Governor's recommendations. Underlying it all are the police powers of the State, which are as elusive as the "invisible hand" that robs the Lockwood committee of its powers so far as the Assembly could aid in the robbery.

EXTRA! DROP 10-CENT FARE!

And It Happens in Brooklyn—No Change on Graham Ave. Line.

The Brooklyn City Railroad Company, at a public hearing before Public Service Commissioner Donnelly to-day, abandoned its intention of charging a 10-cent fare on its Graham Avenue line, running from Long Island City to Park Row.

In a schedule filed with the Public Service Commissioner recently, the company announced it would divide the line into two zones and charge five cents within the old city of Williamsburg and another five cents within the old city of Brooklyn. The Commission suspended the proposed schedule. At to-day's hearing the company announced it would retain the present straight five-cent fare.

Queens Deputy Tax Receiver Examined.

Anthony Moore, Deputy Receiver of Taxes in Queens County, who was suspended a month ago by Comptroller Craig pending investigation of a theft of \$400 from a safe in the office of the Receiver of Taxes in Long Island City, was charged with failing to report the theft, but showed he had no knowledge of the matter. Craig's staff, although not to Mr. Craig personally.

FOOD DOLLAR GAINS 25 PER CENT; VALUE NOW 56.1 CENTS

Advance Leads All Other Dollars in Comparison With the Prices of 1913.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—The dollar is getting to be worth more—especially the food dollar—according to official figures of the Labor Department. The clothing dollar, the traveling dollar, amusement dollar and other dollars have been getting more valuable too, but the food dollar leads the others with an advance of 25 per cent. since June. It was worth only 45.7 cents, compared with 1913; now it is worth 56.1 cents. Turning it around, \$1.78 is paid for the food which in 1913 cost \$1; last June it took \$2.19 to buy that amount of food.

Changes in the value of varieties of food dollars in the last five and six months follow:

	Summer 1919	Present
Egg dollar	54	57
Butter dollar	47	61
Milk dollar	54	53
Bread dollar	47	51
Rice dollar	46	53
Potato dollar	16	53
Sugar dollar	50	53
Coffee dollar	69	75
Alcohol dollar	52	54

GOV. MILLER SEES CITY'S BIG CHANCE IN TRACTION NOW

Explains Message as to Water Being Squeezed Out of Transit Securities.

(Special From a Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)

ALBANY, Jan. 28.—The water has not been squeezed out of the securities in the sense that the securities have been retired, but in market value.

This is Gov. Miller's explanation of what he meant in his message with regard to the traction companies of New York City not earning fixed charges, and which might mislead the public into a belief that the companies are not making money on their actual investments.

The part of the Governor's message sent to the Legislature on last Monday night, relating to the subject, reads as follows:

"The market value of outstanding securities is undoubtedly much below the intrinsic value of the properties represented."

"The water has already been squeezed out of the securities, and the companies are not earning fixed charges."

"The time is therefore propitious to deal with the subject in the public interest and with exact justice to all. It would be little short of a public calamity if the opportunity this presented were allowed to pass."

"Of course, any consideration of the subject must start from the premise that the public shall not be called upon to pay earnings upon, or to dilute the watered securities, if the last seen the natural outcome of this statement, and he said that he had, as well as other statements by citizens which have been published, and this was his answer:

"I think what I said was reasonably plain, unless somebody wanted to misunderstand me. Of course, the water has not been squeezed out of the securities in the sense that the securities have been retired. The securities are outstanding. I was talking about market value."

"If anybody will take the trouble to get a list of securities of earnings of the traction companies and compute their market value, it won't require any great expert to determine at once that the values are necessarily away below actual intrinsic values. For example, the underlying bonds issued upon public authority, the money for which concededly went into the city to deal with them would probably be passed."

"That is what I was talking about. And the fact that the securities are as low and the underlying bonds selling at 40 cents on the dollar, presents a situation that should be taken advantage of. Nothing can happen that won't be a help to these securities. It is therefore in a situation for the city to make advantageous terms; terms favorable to the city."

"Now, of course, what is bound to happen if the thing drifts is one of two things. Either the properties continue to deteriorate as they are until they are virtually scrapped, or the underlying bonds will insist upon having the thing go to a foreclosure sale. And if it ever goes to a foreclosure sale, and the owners of the underlying bonds become the owners, as they would, the opportunity of the city to deal with them would probably be passed."

"Now, of course, this talk of excluding the city, like this talk of the watered securities, is more of what I have characterized as loose thinking and loose talk. What I am thinking of, ultimately—I say ultimately, and I would not think it would be very far distant—the thing must be put on a basis in which the city is an actual partner."

"It is a partner now in the sense that it has the money in there, but an actual partnership in the earnings of the roads, and very likely some place in the directorate of these operating companies by representation of the city on their board. Actual home rule, in other words. Instead of the theoretical kind that doesn't exist, is what I am thinking of."

207 YEARS' PRISON SENTENCES FOR 15 BANDITS IN BATCH

(Continued From First Page.)

the proprietors and robbed the tills. Juan Alvarez, the leader, nineteen years old, who lived at the Bronx Y. M. C. A., received a sentence of 9 to 15 years; Valeriano Santos, 7½ to 15; Cristiano Avelino, 5 to 10; Feliciano Jolas from 4 to 14; and Silverio Benarome, from 4 to 16. Paul J. Nagel, Belleville, N. J., and Jack Perry, who chloroformed and robbed Mrs. Helen McHugh of \$2,000 in jewelry in Van Cortlandt Park, were convicted yesterday. Mr. Perry received sentence of ten to twenty and twenty years respectively. Mrs. McHugh pleaded in court to ignorance. Nagel and was rebuked by Judge Gibbs.

Benedict Castello, a Bronx stone mason, was sent up for from seven and one-half to ten years for robbing Thomas Dugdale in Bronx Park. Detectives Fallon and Johnson, who arrested him, were commended by the Court. Antonio Lemore received a sentence of ten years for attempted robbery, and Dave Morrison got from two and one-half to five years for burglary, of which he was convicted yesterday.

When the fifteenth man had been sentenced, Judge Gibbs said of his day's work, "I hope that message will ring clear to the underworld."

INFLUENZA—FR. JOHN'S MEDICINE gives strength in cold and cough.

URGES 2,000,000 RAIL WORKERS CUT THEIR OWN WAGES

Executives Advocate This as Best Way to Get Out of Present Tangle.

CHICAGO, Jan. 28.—Two million railroad employees should voluntarily cut their wages, in the opinion of railway executives meeting here to-day to discuss the labor and wage situation.

W. G. Besler, President of the New Jersey Central Railroad and a member of the Labor Committee of the Association of Railroad Executives, urged the employees to take this action to bring the nation out of the rail tangle. He said this view was held by many other railroad executives.

In a statement made as he was going into the meeting of the railroad executives, he said:

"An arbitrary cut in wages for our employees would hurt. They should get together and tell the management they are willing to accept a little loss. William Lee, President of the Railway Trainmen, is on record as saying it is not high wages that employees want but purchasing power. The dollar has a greater purchasing power to-day."

No recommendations for drastic slashes in wages will come out of the conference if Mr. Besler's opinions are followed. "It's mighty poor business to underpay labor," he said. "If fair wages are paid we get the cream of the labor market; if not, other industries get it. It takes the best employees to run railroads successfully."

He blamed former Government control and present supervision for the plight of the roads.

"After the Government spent nine billion dollars to run the roads they were turned back in a run down condition," he said. "We also found wages based on the law of the land, irrespective of economic conditions."

"The Government now owes the roads upward of \$500,000,000 as a guarantee. This sum has been certified by the Interstate Commerce Commission, but is still held up, he said.

"This leaves the roads unable to pay their obligations," he said.

GOVERNOR KEPT AT HOME BY ILLNESS

Throat Sore, He Defied Doctor's Orders to Speak at Banquet Last Night.

(Special From a Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)

ALBANY, Jan. 28.—Gov. Miller did not put in an appearance at the Capitol this morning and will not be seen in the Executive Chambers all day. He is home in bed with a sore throat. Last night he gave paddy-whack to the League of Women Voters, but to-day a woman is boss of the Executive Mansion and is telling the Governor of the State what he can do, and what he can't do.

He was on hand, as usual, at 9 o'clock yesterday, went over his mail, saw visitors, met the legislative correspondents, laughed with them, chatted some and was interviewed. Then the doctor called.

At the Executive Mansion this afternoon Dr. Leo H. Neuman said of his condition:

"The Governor has a slight bronchial cold and should be kept quiet for a day or so. There is absolutely nothing serious. He will be confined for a few days to the house, but not to bed."

71 SALOON KEEPERS IN JERSEY HELD

Woman Defendant Nearly Faints When Asked to Sign Bond—Thought It Was Confession.

Seventy-one saloonkeepers arrested in Jersey City, Bayonne, Weehawken, Union Hill, Hoboken and West New York by prohibition enforcement agents, were arraigned to-day before Federal Commissioner Hendrickson, who held all save two in \$1,500 bail for examination in Newark on Monday. The two, who were said to be third offenders, were held in \$5,000 bail. They were Fred Meyer and Louis Enawitz, both of West New York.

Mrs. Helen Ritter of No. 125 Washington Street, Hoboken, one of those arrested, nearly fainted when asked to sign her bail bond. She thought it was a confession. John ("Bunny") Shua, another defendant, pushed a dollar bill over to Commissioner Hendrickson's girl clerk after his bail had been arranged. She pushed it back, but he insisted she take it.

"What is this money for?" asked Commissioner Hendrickson.

"I want her to buy some ice cream for herself," said Shua.

Senate Committee Favors Change in Clayton Act.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—The Progressives in the Senate are favorably disposed to amend the Clayton anti-trust act so as to remove restrictions on railroad transactions with companies having interlocking directorates.

Senator Underhill introduced a bill to-day, modified to provide for supervision of such transactions by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

BRINDELL WITNESS HAS HOT TIME ON HIS EXAMINATION

Donahy Who Contradicted Story of \$5,000 Bribe Grilled by Mr. Untermeyer.

David Donahy, business agent of the Marble Setters' Union with the Building Trades Council, was the target of a minute and merciless cross-examination to-day by Samuel Untermeyer in the trial of Robert P. Brindell for extortion. Its object was to break the effect on the jury of the story told by Donahy yesterday as first witness in Brindell's defense.

That story was a flat contradiction of the narrative of Max Aronson, the garment manufacturer who accuses Brindell of extorting \$5,000 from him as the price of calling off a strike in the Aronson building at Seventh Avenue and 36th Street.

Mr. Aronson said he was summoned to the building by his mason contractor, Mr. Wieland. Donahy swore he was at the office half an hour before Aronson with Steve Birmingham and saw nothing of Wieland.

Mr. Aronson and Mr. Wieland swore Mr. Wieland took Mr. Aronson to Brindell's office door, introduced them and they went into the office and Brindell and Mr. Aronson were behind the closed door for twenty minutes.

Mr. Donahy swears he and Birmingham were together in Brindell's double office when Aronson knocked, was admitted, introduced himself and talked with Brindell in front of both of them "for ten minutes."

Mr. Aronson told of a talk at that time with Brindell of cold-blooded threats to cause losses of rent, interest and costs by allowing the strike to continue unless \$5,000 was paid; of a comparison of his situation to that of Mr. Levy, who had lost thousands of dollars by such delays, and of bargaining and finally compromising on \$5,000.

Mr. Donahy swears the conversation was amicable and that Brindell took unquestionably Aronson's word to enforce union conditions and promised the strike should be called off as soon as word could be sent to the proper person.

Mr. Aronson told of going to a bank and getting \$5,000 which he put in Brindell's hands in the same office at 2.30 o'clock.

Mr. Donahy swears that Brindell, Birmingham and himself left the office half an hour after Mr. Aronson left and were together there until after 2.30.

Q. You were a regular attendant at the Lockwood Committee hearings and have a habit of making memorandum slips of your daily observations. Did you make such notes in the Lockwood Committee hearings? A. Yes.

Q. You have them with you now? A. Some of them. Others I memorized and destroyed.

Q. Why did you memorize them? A. In case I was called as a witness.

Q. How many have you now? A. The witness took a bunch of yellow slips out of his pocket and selected three.

Mr. Donahy said he had been interested in the testimony of Contractors Pettegor, Pardeio and Parsons, who had testified regarding marble trade conditions. Parsons had told of having a witness, Donahy, and Patrick Crowley arrested, charged with extortion, and of their being held for General Sessions and discharged.

Q. You did not know Brindell had the power to start or call off strikes? A. The power as a Chairman of Contractors Pettegor, Pardeio and Parsons, who had testified regarding marble trade conditions, Parsons had told of having a witness, Donahy, and Patrick Crowley arrested, charged with extortion, and of their being held for General Sessions and discharged.

Q. You heard him tell Aronson the strike on Aronson's building and he called off. Did he consult with anybody about that? A. No.

Q. Have you a good memory for dates? A. Fair.

Q. Have you any memorandum of the meeting between Aronson and Brindell Sept. 27? A. Yes, I have it with me.

Q. When did you make it? A. I didn't make it. A stenographer made it in Mr. Littleton's office Wednesday a week ago.

Q. Who was present? A. Steve Birmingham and Robert P. Brindell.

Q. You story of that conversation is all independent recollection? A. Yes.

Q. You were in Brindell's office how long? A. About an hour.

Q. Birmingham's office was downstairs but he was up there too. How long was Aronson there? A. Eight to ten minutes.

Q. You all left the office at 1.30, half an hour after Aronson left? A. Yes.

Q. When you arrived at Brindell's office was there anybody outside? A. There were always people around.

Q. Do you know Mr. Wieland? A. I've had him pointed out here in the corridor.

Mr. Wieland was the masonry contractor who told of sending for Aronson to come to Brindell's office and of meeting him there.

"Did you see the man you now know as Wieland at Brindell's office?" asked Justice McHugh.

"No," answered the witness.

Mr. Untermeyer renewed his cross-examination.

Q. Do you remember Wieland telephoning him before Mr. Aronson arrived? A. No.

Q. What was the first you saw of Aronson? A. I was in the outside

BLIND GIRL WINS HONORS IN SCHOOL; ALSO IS COMPOSER



ROSALIE COHN SHOWS HISTORIC ABILITY AND IS ACCOMPLISHED MUSICIAN.

Fourteen-year-old Rosalie "Winters" Cohn, has the distinction of being the only blind child to graduate from a public school.

Last night she received her diploma from Public School 127, Brooklyn. At the graduation exercises she astounded the audience by her portrayal of a mother in the school play, and by rendering a piano solo.

Rosalie, who has adopted the name of "Winters" from that of a story heroine whom she fancied, is the youngest blind child composer of acceptable music, her first piece being "Rose Lullaby."

When fourteen years ago a little blind baby, thought to be feeble-minded, was placed in the hands of Mrs. John Alden, President-General of the International Sunshine Society, it seemed impossible that the child would ever develop normal powers.

Years of care and attention given her by the society have developed even more than normal qualities in the girl.

At music she is a wonder, and has won many prizes as well as a scholarship. In dancing she is graceful. There is no part of domestic work which she cannot perform well. Her needlework is excellent, as shown by the white lace trimmed graduation frock which she made in three months.

Gentle and refined in manner, the little blind girl has won the hearts of everyone, both in her school and in the home. This is evident from the fact that the other blind youngsters intend giving a play shortly to raise funds for the continuance of Rosalie's education; also by a gift of a beautiful opal ring surrounded by diamond chips, given her by members of the society and a gold watch and gold butterfly pin given her by friends.

For in spite of the girl's blindness she loves to wear and feel jewelry.

It is her intention to attend the Bay Ridge High School and later enter college to prepare for a career as teacher among the blind, or as teacher of music.

Mr. Brindell and Birmingham were in the inner office. There was a knock on the door.

Q. And a little gray-haired man came in? A. A black and gray-haired man. Q. What did he say? A. He said "I am Mr. Aronson."

Q. Nobody introduced him? A. No. (Contractor Wieland and Mr. Aronson both swore that Wieland accompanied Aronson to Brindell's office and introduced them outside the door, after which Brindell ushered Mr. Aronson in and closed the door.)

Mr. Untermeyer put the witness through a long course of examination as to how it was he remembered so closely the date of the strike on Aronson's building and his later visit to a job at 210th Street where there was labor trouble.

"Isn't it the only date you can fix by memory in your whole business life?" asked Mr. Untermeyer.

"It is not," shouted the witness. "And you know I have fixed many a one. You know it. You—"

Untermeyer had just one more inquiry.

Q. Did you say you made your last visit to the 210th Street Station Oct. 12? A. Yes.

Q. You are sure of that? You put it on a memorandum which you memorized? A. Yes.

Q. Don't you know that was Columbus Day and nobody was at work there? A. I went up there Oct. 12, as I remember.

"That's all," said Mr. Untermeyer, smiling.

While Mr. Littleton was questioning John Ryan, organizer of the newly formed houseworkers' union, the next witness for the defense, Mr. Untermeyer spoke up and directed the witness to answer "yes" or "no" and to "stop making explanations."

Justice McHugh leaned forward and said: "Counsel will cease addressing the witness while under examination. This is the third or fourth time this has happened. I would rather leave the bench than permit it to continue. If you wish the witness to be reproved you will make your request to the Court. You will not address the witness again."

Mr. Untermeyer made no reply.

On cross-examining Ryan Mr. Untermeyer brought out that since last April Brindell, as business agent of the Houseworkers' and Dock Builders' Union had received \$30 cents a month from each of \$500 men or at the rate of \$15,000 a year.

WEALTHY KIN SEEK WOMAN HELD FOR \$50,000 RANSOM

Mrs. O. S. Witherell Is Kidnapped as She Answers Fake Report Husband Is Hurt.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Jan. 28.—With her frantic husband, father and father-in-law, all wealthy, spurring on a squad of private detectives to aid police and Deputy Sheriffs in a widespread search, not one definite clue to the whereabouts of beautiful Mrs. O. S. Witherell, twenty-three, has been found since she was kidnapped from her home, No. 1843 Whitley Avenue, last Tuesday night. A ransom of \$50,000 has been demanded for her return, conditional upon compliance with instructions not to notify the police.

Rewards for information as to the whereabouts of Mrs. Witherell were announced to-day by relatives and friends.

Five hundred dollars was offered by her husband; \$1,000 by her father, John C. Kratz; \$500 by a Los Angeles newspaper, and \$500 by neighbors of the Witherells.

Shortly before her husband, who is President of a loan and investment company, returned home from his business, Mrs. Witherell was called to the door by a stranger, who told her there had been an automobile accident nearby and that one of the injured men, apparently her husband, was calling her name. Placing her eighteen-month-old baby in the care of a neighbor she hurried away with the stranger.

Alarmed at a—misplaced alarm—the husband and his father, A. J. Witherell, a retired banker, telephoned a relative and throughout the night conducted a fruitless search.

While the police, private detectives and deputy sheriffs were hunting for the missing woman, making a house-to-house search of Hollywood for the kidnapers, frenzied relatives of Mrs. Witherell delved into the realms of the occult in an effort to learn her whereabouts. John C. Kratz, her wealthy father, visited a medium yesterday and was told that he would hear from his daughter soon.

The demand for the ransom was made in a note placed under the door of the family home and addressed to Mrs. Witherell's husband. The note read:

Mr. Witherell: Your wife is safe. Do not worry. Have \$50,000 in cash ready and you will hear from me soon. Don't notify the police or detectives, or all will be lost.

Police and private detectives working on the case have abandoned their first theories that Mrs. Witherell had been murdered or that she was kidnapped for revenge. Although they do not admit the letter received by Witherell was written by the kidnapers, they concede that the missing woman is being held for ransom and announce that they have reason to believe startling developments will come soon. They point out that the note sent Witherell demanding ransom may have been the work of a crank who read about the case in the newspapers.

It is her intention to attend the Bay Ridge High School and later enter college to prepare for a career as teacher among the blind, or as teacher of music.

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